



SEPTEMBER 1989

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Newsletter

Duke's Hall

The Hall will now go 'dark' - ie closed for renovation - on 1st February 1990, and will be out of action for the rest of the year. Arrangements with Regent's College have been made for occasional use of their Tuke Hall next year.

American Music Festival (12th - 15th March 1990)

Preparations are well advanced for this, the seventh International Composer Week. A unique annual event in the RAM calendar (and in British music education as a whole), it will this time feature the works of Elliott Carter, who will be composer-in-residence. All inquiries to Roger Steptoe, the organizer.

The Spring RAM Opera

What it will be, and when it will take place, will not be known for a few weeks yet. What is known, reports Norman Ayrton, is that it will be an American opera, directed by Jamie Hayes and conducted by James Holmes of the ENO.

Summer School 1990

The first RAM Summer School, in conjunction with Regent's College, took place in July/August. The courses offered were Classic Jazz, Early Music and a two-week Amadeus Quartet Course. Plans are in train to make the second one, in 1990, even more attractive to students worldwide.

Junior Academy

Jonathan Willcocks takes over from Gavin Brown as Director this autumn, but will not be full-time until January. Presently he is Director of Music at Bedales School.

Evening Concerts in Duke's Hall to watch out for:

- October 6 : Symphony Orchestra, conductor John Georgiadis, soloists Hans-Peter and Volker Stenzl
- October 13 : Sinfonia Orchestra, conductor Christopher Warren-Green
- November 10 : String Orchestra, conductor David Strange
- November 29 : Manson Ensemble, conductor Odaline de la Martinez
- [November 26 : in St John's Smith Square, Symphony Orchestra, conductor Lionel Friend]

Professor Zakhar Bron

For those who don't yet know, this highly sought-after Russian violin teacher, from the M.I. Glinka Conservatoire, will be at the Academy, for the first of three working visits, in November. He will give open consultations for young professionals, public masterclasses, and group tuition. The Deputy Warden has full details.

RAM Postcards

Don't forget, the new RAM postcards are on sale from Room G7, only 30p each. Every card purchased is pure profit to RAM, and therefore will benefit students directly. Hurry, hurry, while stocks last.

Deputy Warden to visit Japan

But not for good - only to audition for new Japanese entrants to the Intermediate Certificate Course. There are presently four students: Jasper Thorogood hopes to recruit up to 15 new students. We have outside funding for this Course now, from the Great Britain-Sasakawa Foundation, to whom we are very grateful. (The Deputy Warden is also off to visit the College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati - don't blink this term or you'll miss him!)

Principal to visit Moscow

Sir David Lumsden will meet Boris Kulikov, Director of the Moscow Conservatoire, in the late autumn to explore further the possibilities for exchanges of students from the two institutions - not for good, only temporarily. This promises to be an exciting development, with each side having much to learn from the other. More news anon.

Alumni Reunion Day, Saturday 11th November

RAM will host a social, musical and gastronomic afternoon for 300 ex-students on this afternoon. Staff and students will be involved in varying degrees - it will be the first-ever such gathering - and we hope it will lead to enthusiasm and support from Alumni for what the Academy is presently doing.

Developments in the Electronic Music Studio

Jeremy Pike writes: 'A lot of money is being invested in the Manson Room studio - I wonder how many of you are aware that the former eight-track studio is now being upgraded to a professional twenty-four track studio? There is an extensive range of synthesizers, and stereo sampling is now on offer. Courses in all types of music and in recording techniques are open to all students. After a period of time you will be able to work on your own in the studio - producing any kind of music that you wish on a DAT master cassette!'

For further details see Jeremy Pike now ... first come, first served.

John McCabe at 50

Congratulations from one London music college to the Director of another, on the occasion of his 50th birthday. The Academy is recognising the event in a practical way, too, with performances of several of his works throughout the term. John McCabe will start proceedings by giving a talk on his music on 29th September.

Appeal News

Thanks to the Broadwood Trust's recent donation, the Appeal target of £4.5m has been reached, £2m of which came from public subscription. Attention now switches to recurrent funds for 'Development' - which will be described in full in the Academy's forthcoming brochure, 'The Development of Excellence'.

Paris Conservatoire

Both RAM and the Paris Conservatoire have now paid visits to each other, with a view to setting up a detailed exchange programme.

Initially this would involve a visit to the Academy in April 1990, with the return visit in November 1990. A programme concerning the performance of 20th-century music in each institution is considered the most appropriate way forward.

International Master Classes

This coming term the Academy will receive visits from several distinguished musicians:

October 2 : Anne-Sophie Mutter (International Chair of Violin Studies)
October 12/13 : Sir Geraint Evans
October 23/24 : Jerzy Kosmala (viola)
November 21 : Maurice Hasson (violin)
November 28/29 : Robert Tear (International Chair of Vocal Studies)

PCFC/Review of London Music Colleges

At the time of writing the Review Committee, chaired by Lord Gowrie, is expected to report back early in 1990 on its investigations into the provision for training of professional musicians in London. The Academy's Strategic Plan for the next three years has been submitted and the Review Committee plans to visit the Academy in the autumn.

RAM/King's College London

Not much more to add here than was in the press release of 13th September, which announced the intention of the two institutions to create a joint Centre for teaching and research in music, leading to a comprehensive degree programme in both performance and theoretical studies. Much still has to be worked out, but this imaginative venture can only be good for us both.

PROFESSORS' NEWS

Virginia Black's new recording contract with Collins Classics includes the complete Rameau keyboard works; and in the last year she has visited the USA twice, giving concerts and masterclasses in the Eastern Universities.

Susan Bixley recently spoke on Woman's Hour about the Riddick Orchestra, originally the London Women's String Orchestra, which her mother, Kathleen Riddick, helped to found.

Philip Fowke's recordings of the Ravel Piano Concertos, with the LPO, have been released on the EMI Eminence label.

Christopher Brown's choral and orchestral work 'Landscapes', commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Huntingdonshire Philharmonic, has just been performed in Ely Cathedral - appropriately enough, since his piece celebrates the history, people and wildlife of the Fens.

Clarence Myerscough's travels have taken him to Zurich, Wil (Switzerland), Burgundy and Ireland, where he has done several programmes for RTE, including a recording of Alan Ridout's 'Five pictures of Samuel Palmer' for solo violin.

Howard Davis, with the Alberni Quartet, is just about to record all the quartets of Beethoven and Mozart; and with his wife,

Virginia Black, he is also shortly releasing a record of Mozart Sonatas on baroque violin and harpsichord.

Graham Collier's music for 'The Bass Saxophone', an adaptation of the book by Josef Skvorecky about German-occupied Czechoslovakia, can be heard on BBC Radio on 29th September. He is also writing a book called Possible Pictures, subtitled Composition and All That Jazz.

Anthony Williams (1986), who has been teaching second-study pianists at the Academy for the past two years, has just been appointed Head of Keyboard Studies at Radley College.

Timothy Walker writes: 'Was lucky enough to witness Milan go peacefully berserk when they won the European Cup. I was contributing 13 magical bars in Verdi's "Falstaff" with the Welsh National Opera Company. The Italians loved it and it was another big success for the German director Peter Stein' (the show, not the football).

Robert Langston has completed his first year as organist to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (having been, for 17 years, Director of Music at St Bride's Church). By coincidence, he becomes the fifth RAM professor in succession to hold this post. A prize for the first person to name the others - Christopher Regan may not enter!

Michaela Noakes is in rehearsal for a 3-month UK tour in 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

Mary Thomas has just appeared in 'The Golem' by John Casken at the Almeida Festival.

John White has again been Viola Tutor with the European Youth Community Orchestra, in Italy and Norway (David Strange is Cello Tutor for the EYCO).

Roy Teed's 'Toccata for Organ' and 'Overture for Organ' are both to be performed by Robert Crowley in London, the former in a Recital at St Paul's Cathedral on 29th September.

Richard Stoker's new song cycle to poems from Shakespeare's plays was premiered by Jacqueline Fox and Raymond Burley (guitar) at Cambridge in July. One of the most successful of his many pupils is Joe Jackson the singer/song-writer.

And a welcome to the following new members of staff:

Nelly Akopian (Piano)	John Mills (Guitar)
Peter Carter (Violin)	Paul Parkinson (Composition/ Supporting)
Nicholas Danby (Organ)	Melvyn Tan (Early Music)
Skaila Kanga (Harp)	Roger Tapping (Viola)
Piers Lane (Piano)	Xue Wei (Violin)
Penelope McKay (French)	

Peggy Van Luyn (General Office Manager)
Lisa Shaw (Academic Affairs Office)

This Newsletter has been organised by the Development Office - all news is welcome, and the next issue will be in February. Contact Room G7 with items for inclusion.